

App. No. 10/001,280
Amendment Dated: January 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Srivastava et al. ("Vulcan-Binary Transformation in a Distributed Environment") (hereinafter Vulcan). The Applicants respectfully disagree and present the following for consideration. Claims 1-7 have been amended. No new matter was added.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 was objected to as having a preamble reflecting an apparatus with one limitation reflecting a method claim. In response, Claims 1-7 have been amended.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-20 were rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Vulcan. The Office Action indicates in paragraph 4 that Vulcan was published in April 2000. The Vulcan paper provided, however, indicates that the publication date is April, 2001. The Vulcan paper is co-authored by Andrew Edwards who is a listed inventor of the current application.

Attached hereto is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.131 and 1.132 executed by the inventors of the current application (Edwards and Gomes) that removes the Vulcan paper as a reference. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

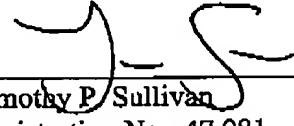
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application,

App. No. 10/001,280
Amendment Dated: January 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2005

the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Timothy P. Sullivan
Registration No. 47,981
Direct Dial: 206.342.6254

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

